

County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration 500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012 (213) 974-1101 http://ceo.lacounty.gov

July 8, 2008

Board of Supervisors GLORIA MOLINA First District

YVONNE B. BURKE Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY Third District

DON KNABE Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

The Honorable Board of Supervisors County of Los Angeles 383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration 500 West Temple Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS: FINDING OF CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION AND APPROVAL OF THE LA CIENEGA BOULEVARD AT SLAUSON AVENUE INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE COMMUNITY OF LADERA HEIGHTS (SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 2)

(3 VOTES)

<u>SUBJECT</u>

This action is to find the La Cienega Boulevard at Slauson Avenue project to widen the existing ramps at this intersection exempt from California Environmental Quality Act requirements and to approve the project.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

- 1. Find that this project is categorically exempt pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.
- 2. Approve the project and authorize the Department of Public Works to carry out the project.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the recommended action is to fulfill the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed project and authorize the Department of Public Works to proceed with the project, which will provide adequate transportation capacity to handle the current and future traffic growth in the region.

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Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The Countywide Strategic Plan directs that we provide the goals of Service Excellence (Goal 1) and the Community Services (Goal 6). This project will significantly improve traffic flow, thereby enhancing safety and making this intersection more navigable for motorists, which will benefit and improve the quality of life of residents in the County of Los Angeles.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County General Fund

The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$2,438,000. The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) will finance \$1,273,000 of this amount under the 2007 Call For Projects (MOU No. P000F1156). The remaining amount will be financed with County and private developer funds. A construction contract will be advertised for bids at a later date, contingent upon your Board's approval of this action. Funding for preliminary engineering is included in the Proposed Second Supervisorial District's Road Construction Program in Fiscal Year 2008-09. Funding for construction of the project will be included in the 2009-10 Road Fund Budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The recommended finding is in accordance with CEQA and is required prior to filing the Notice of Exemption with the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk.

The proposed project consists of widening the north and southbound off-ramps from La Cienega Boulevard to Slauson Avenue at this intersection so that there will be three approach lanes to Slauson Avenue instead of the existing two lanes. The widening will be within existing right-of-way and occur adjacent to the inside lane. The existing concrete slopes supporting the approach lanes will be converted into vertical walls to support the additional lane.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The CEQA requires public agency decision makers to document and consider the environmental implications of their action. The project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption pursuant to Sections 15301(c) of the CEQA Guidelines and Class 1(x) 4, 14, 19, and 23 of the County Environmental Guidelines. These exemptions provide for repair, maintenance, and minor alteration of existing highways and streets.

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Upon approval of the exemption by your Board, a \$50 handling fee will be paid to the County Clerk for filing a Notice of Exemption in accordance with the requirements of Section 21152(a) of the California Public Resources Code.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The proposed project will improve traffic flow and safety for motorists in the project area.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to the Department of Public Works, Programs Development Division.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA Chief Executive Officer

WTF:DDE SA:re

c: County Counsel

Department of Public Works (Public Affairs)